

CGE
www.ccentertainment.com

34

APRIL

\$2.95

\$4.75 CAN



www.crossgen.com

MYSTIC™

Tony Bedard
Aaron Lopresti
Matt Ryan
Wil Quintana



Lopresti
Ryan
Wil



Giselle

never wanted ultimate power, but fate had other plans for her. Born on a world ruled by seven magical Guilds, Giselle Villard disdained the mystic arts. She partied night after night while her elder sister, *Genevieve*, rose through the ranks of the powerful Nouveau Guild.

Then came the ceremony where Genevieve was to inherit her Guild's Eternal Spirit - the ghost of a previous master possessing the arcane wisdom of the ages. In the audience, a mysterious stranger branded a mark of power onto Giselle's right palm. This red and yellow Sigil forced the eternal spirits out of all seven Guild Masters and bound them to Giselle. Granted vast magical might, Giselle reluctantly became the most powerful Mystic ever known.

Recently, Giselle was banished by her mysterious new opponent - the Master of the secret Geometer Guild. The very existence of this Guild is unknown to the general population of Tiers, yet they have long controlled world events from behind the scenes. Aided by her companion, *Skitter*, Giselle returned home only to find that the secret of her power had been revealed to the public, causing major unrest around the globe.

Now she must determine which of the Guild Masters is in league with her secret enemy. Her prime suspects: *Magus* of the Dark Magi Guild, *Washua* of the Tantric Guild, and *Pinna* of the Enchantress Guild..

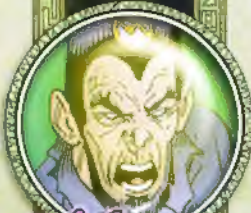
Genevieve



Skitter



Pinna



Magus

Mystic™ Vol. 1, Issue 34, APRIL 2003. FIRST PRINTING. Published by CG Entertainment, Inc. Office of publication: 4023 Tampa Road, Suite 2400, Oldsmar, Florida 34677. CrossGen®, CrossGen Comics®, CrossGeneration®, CrossGeneration Comics®, and the CrossGen sigil® are registered trademarks of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. The CG Entertainment logo™, Mystic™ and all characters and images are Trademark and Copyright 2003 CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. ALL RIGHTS RESERVED. The stories, incidents, and characters in this publication are fictional. Any similarities to persons living or dead are purely coincidental. With the exception of artwork used for review purposes, none of the contents of this book may be reproduced in any form without the express written consent of CrossGeneration Comics, Inc. PRINTED IN CANADA.

CGE™





FWASH

Look
what the
squirt dragged
in...

GISELLE!



HOPE YOU GUYS WEREN'T TOO WORRIED ABOUT ME...

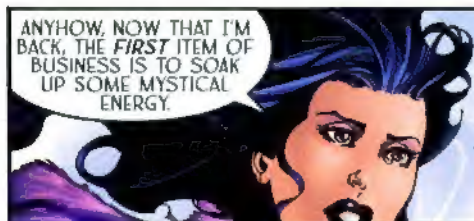
WHEN WE LOST CONTACT, WE FEARED YOU WERE DEAD, BUT--

--WE HAD BEEN DUPED BY THE DARK MAGI SPIRIT...

YEAH, SKITTER FILLED ME IN SOME.

THE MAGUS MUST'VE BEEN WORKING WITH WHOEVER IT WAS THAT BANISHED ME FROM CIRESS.

WAS THAT EVER WEIRD...A WORLD WITHOUT MAGIC...



ANYHOW, NOW THAT I'M BACK, THE FIRST ITEM OF BUSINESS IS TO SOAK UP SOME MYSTICAL ENERGY.

I'M GOING TO NEED IT TO STOP THE RIOTS I JUST SAW BACK HOME.

You got that right, kid.

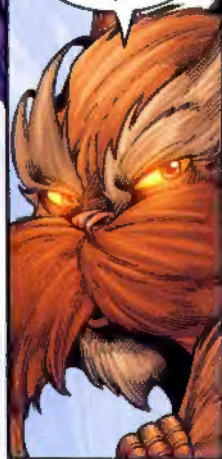
Whoever we're up against planned your downfall a little too well...



They somehow sealed off an entire plane so that no one inside could access the universal energies...

...they got the Magus to cut off the other spirits' mindlink with you, so they couldn't help you out...

...and they got that reporter to tell the world that you took the Guild Spirits and that the Guilds covered it all up.



IT'S A PR. DISASTER...

IS THIS A NEW LOOK, GISELLE? I APPROVE.

THANKS, BUT I'M CHANGING IT BACK--FOR GENEVIEVE'S SAKE. SPEAKING OF WHICH, I SHOULD GO HELP HER...



GENEVIEVE VILLARD! WHY DID YOU LIE TO US?!

YOU'RE NO GUILD MASTER AT ALL! YOU'RE A FRAUD!



SHALL I HAVE SECURITY CLEAR THAT RABBLE FROM THE STREETS, MASTER VILLARD?

WHERE IS THE MASTER?
THE TRUTH IS WHAT WE'RE AFTER!

WHERE IS THE MASTER?
THE TRUTH IS WHAT WE'RE AFTER!



ABSOLUTELY NOT, JULIAN. THAT "RABBLE" HAS EVERY RIGHT TO FEEL BETRAYED BY US.

PERHAPS WE SHOULD HAVE MADE IT PUBLIC KNOWLEDGE THE MOMENT GISELLE ABSORBED THE SPIRITS OUT OF EVERY GUILD MASTER.



BUT THEN YOU MIGHT NOT HAVE BEEN ACCEPTED AS MASTER OF THE NOUVEAU GUILD.

SINCE WHEN DID A BUNCH OF SPOOKS MEAN MORE THAN THE LIVING PEOPLE WHO ARE ACTUALLY IN CHARGE...?

THE ETERNAL SPIRITS MAY JUST SEEM LIKE THE TRAPPINGS OF OFFICE TO YOU, THIERRY, BUT THEY ARE MUCH MORE IMPORTANT THAN THAT.

THEY LEGITIMIZE OUR POWER.









ONCE THE NEWS BROKE THAT GISELLE VILLARD STOLE THE POWER OF THE GUILD SPIRITS FROM US, IT WAS INEVITABLE THAT YOUR NEMESIS WOULD RENEW HIS WAR UPON YOU.



YOUR ACOLYTES EXPECT YOU TO TURN HIM BACK AS EASILY AS YOU HAVE VANQUISHED HIM SO MANY TIMES BEFORE. THEY DO NOT UNDERSTAND JUST HOW MUCH POWER WE DRAW FROM OUR SPIRITS.

I WILL YET PREVAIL.

SO, DID YOU CALL TO RUB SALT IN MY WOUNDS...OR TO OFFER A SOLUTION?



THESE ARE STRANGE TIMES, YINMA. THE OLD STATUS QUO IS FOREVER SHATTERED. WE MUST LOOK TO NEW ALLIES IF WE ARE TO MAINTAIN OUR STATURE ON CIRESS.

THE VILLARD GIRL KNOWS THIS. SHE'S WASTED NO TIME IN FORMING HER OWN ALLIANCES.

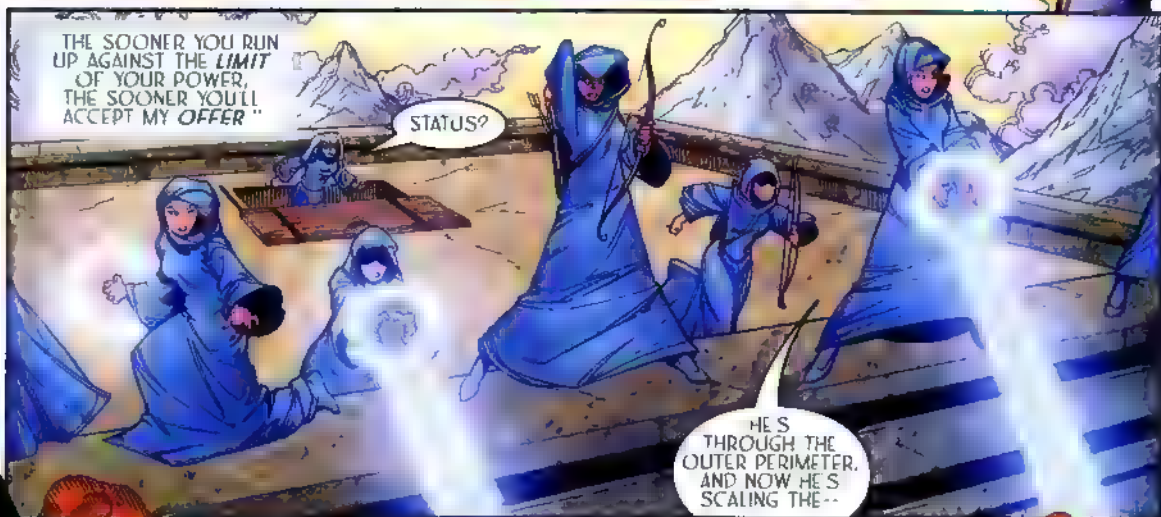


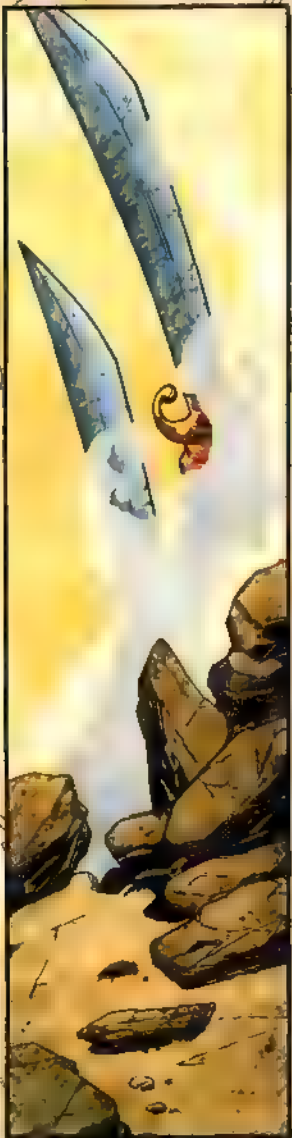
TRUE, HER RECENT TRAVELS HAVE WON OVER THE SHAMANS, THE ASTRALS, THE DJINNS...

I, TOO, HAVE FOUND POWERFUL NEW ALLIES. THOUGH NONE YOU WOULD HAVE HEARD OF.

YOUR DISTRUST OF GISELLE APPROACHES MY OWN. PERHAPS YOU'D CARE TO MEET MY NEW PARTNERS AND JOIN US IN OPPOSING--







HO,
YINMA! WHAT A
SURPRISE TO FIND
YOU ACTUALLY
FACING US!



WE HEARD
YOU LOST
YOUR FIGHTING
SPIRIT!



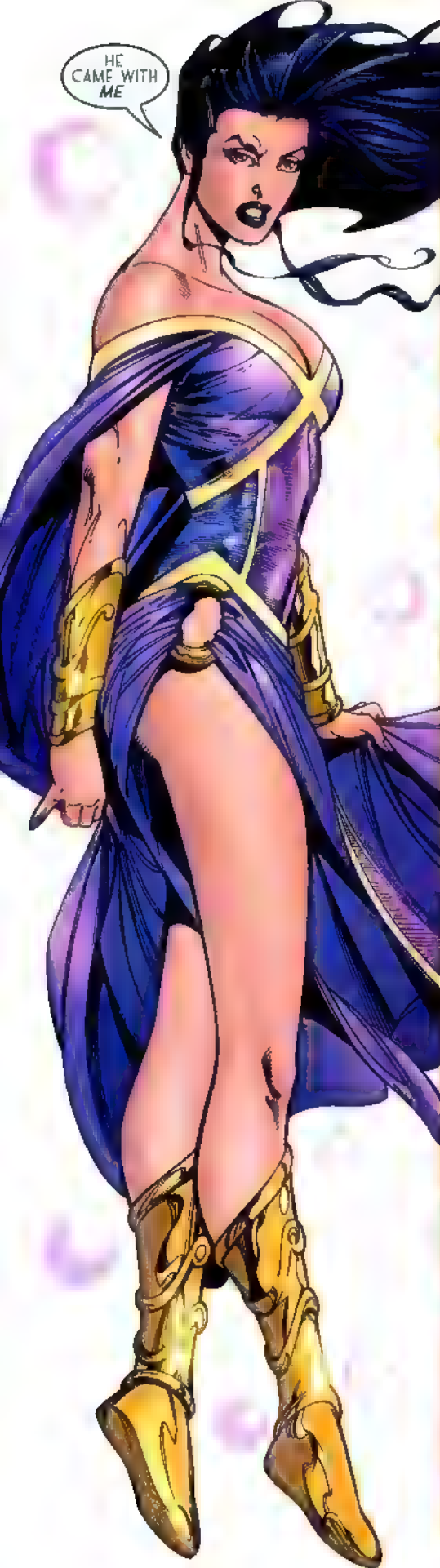
WAS THAT SUPPOSED
TO BE A JOKE, YOU
WRETCHED TWISTED
THING?



See what happens
when ya don't let boys
in your Guild?

Guys like
this crash your
party, cuz they
think it's where
all the chicks
are

WHERE DID
YOU COME
FROM?



HE
CAME WITH
ME



OUR
QUARREL IS WITH
THE ENCHANTRESS
GUILD, NOT YOU,
STRANGER

YOU MAY
WITHDRAW AND
KEEP YOUR
LIFE



GEE, THAT'S MIGHTY SWEET
OF YOU, BUT I HAVE BUSINESS
OF MY OWN WITH MASTER
YINMA

AND YOU
KILLING HER
WOULD PUT A
REAL CRIMP IN
IT SO

SKROOM

YOU
WILL BLEED
FOR THAT

SHOCK

THIS IS
MY FIGHT,
USURPER,
NOT

Just
hold your
fire for a
second
Yinma

I'm
sure the
Magus won't
mind if she
gets herself
killed

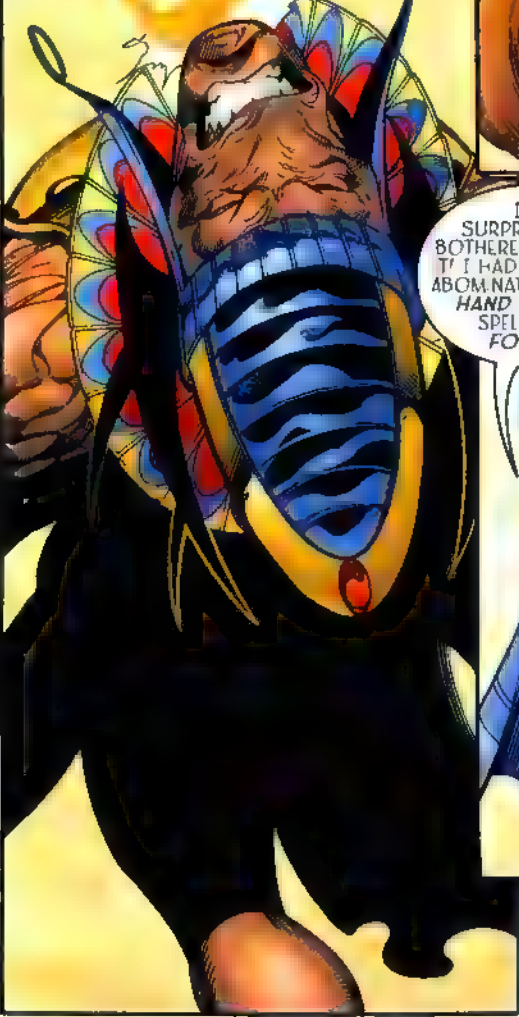
YOU KNOW
HE CAME TO
ME ?

So does
Giselle

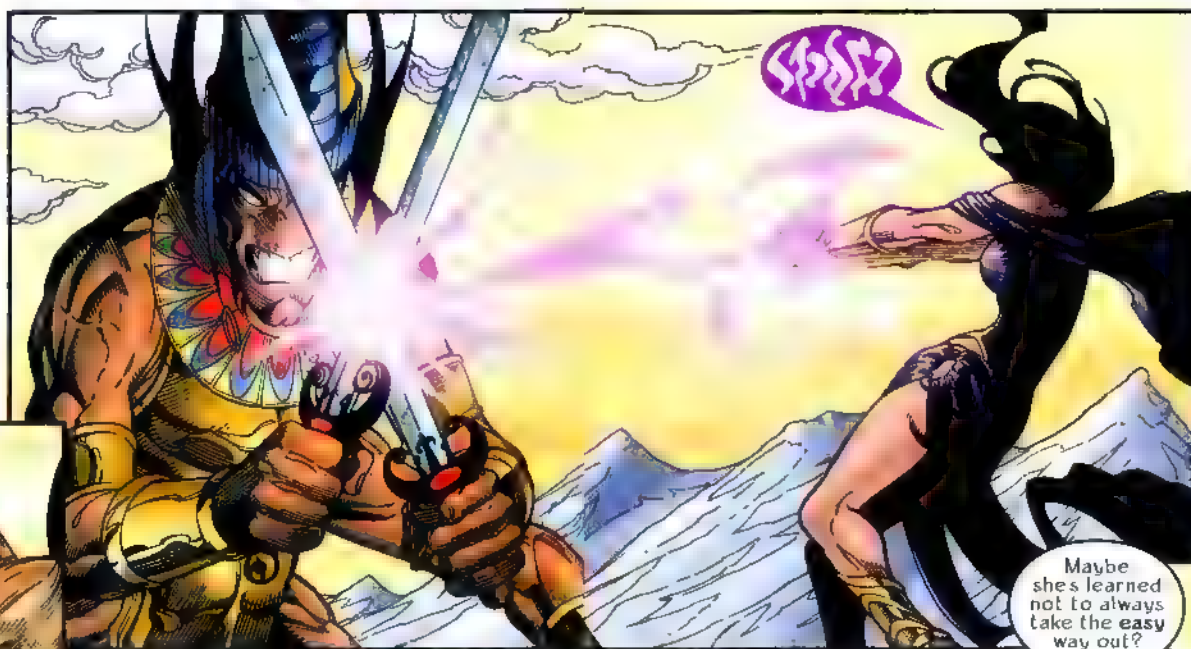
Now ask
yourself would
that skinny old bag of
hate put his butt on
the line for you ?



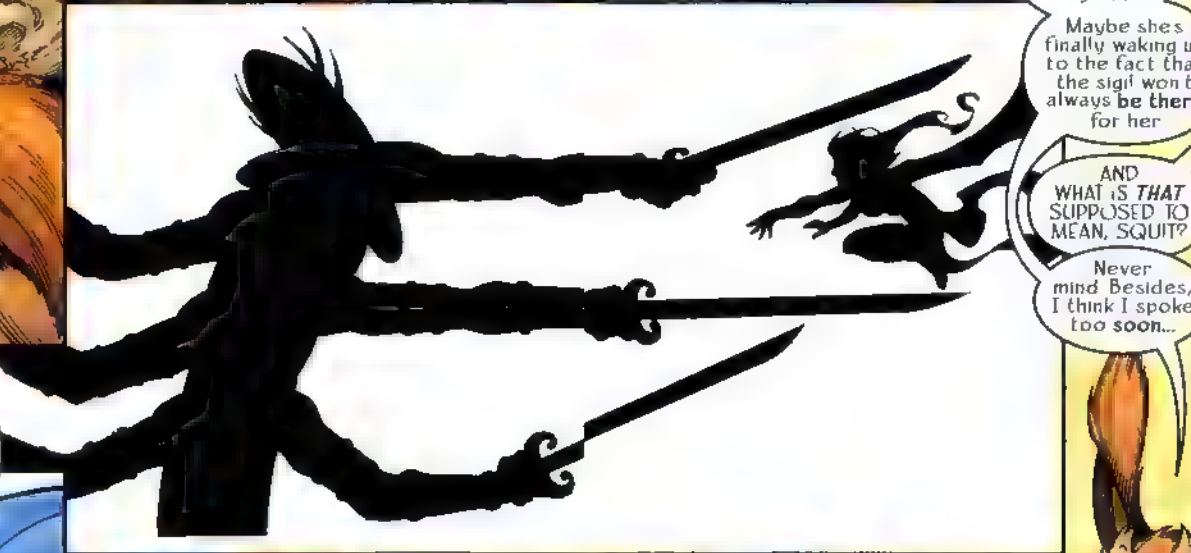
An Astral Guild spell? Kids been studying..!



I AM SURPRISED SHE BOTHERED TO LEARN 'T' I HAD HEARD THAT ABOMINATION ON HER HAND DOES THE SPELL WORK FOR HER!



SHSSSS?

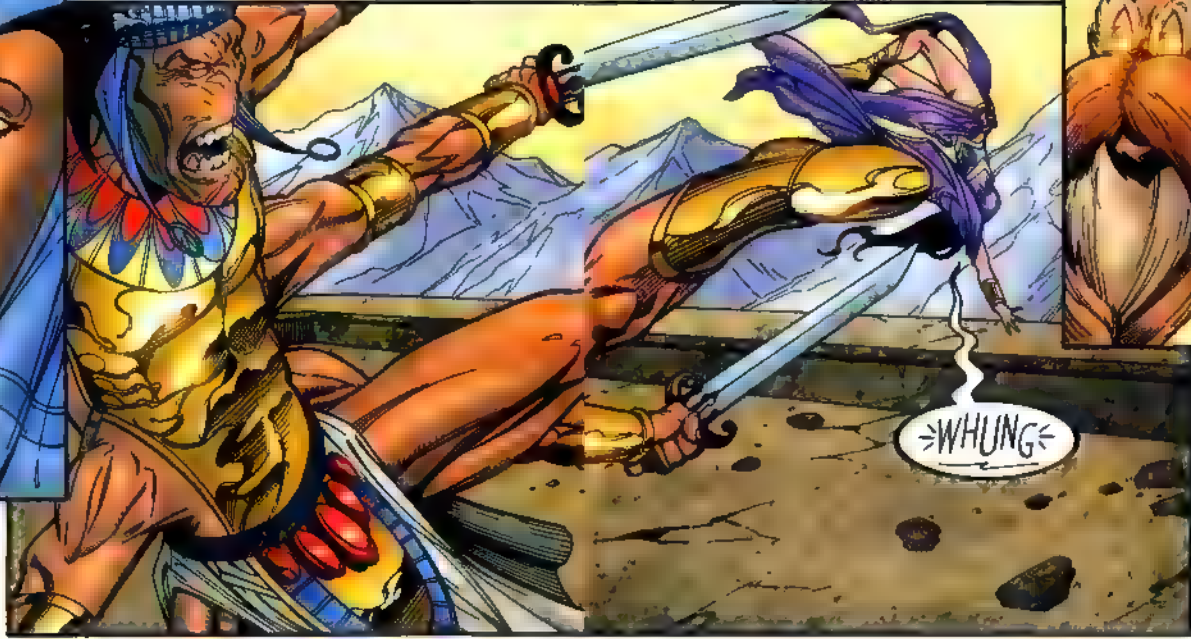


Maybe she's learned not to always take the easy way out?

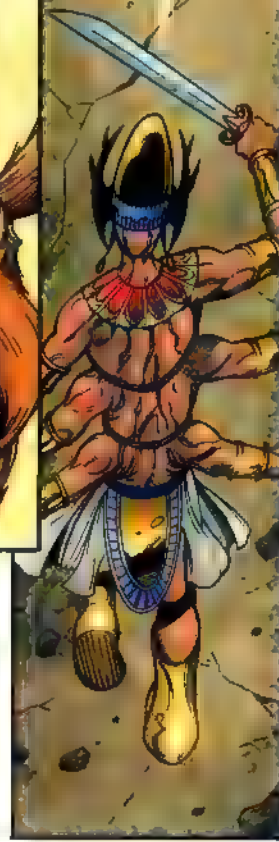
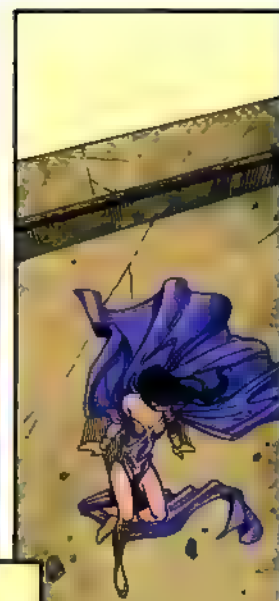
Maybe she's finally waking up to the fact that the sigil won't always be there for her

AND WHAT IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN, SQUIT?

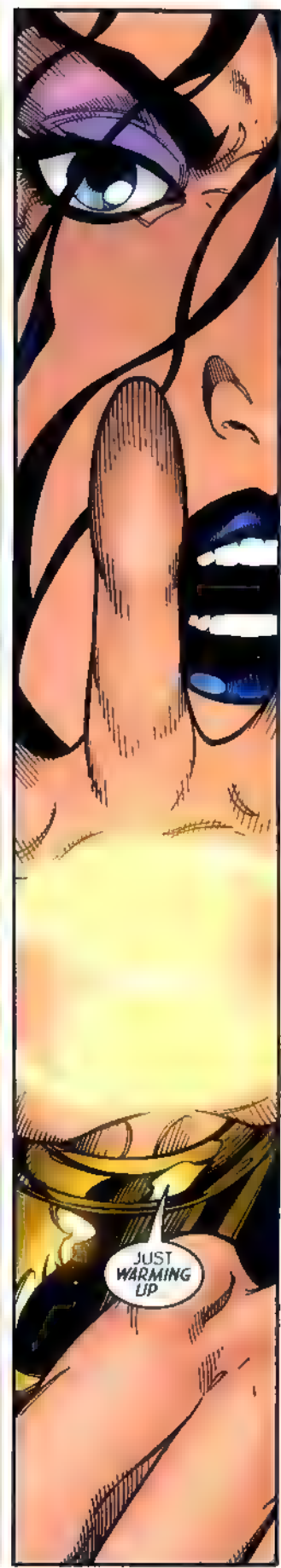
Never mind Besides, I think I spoke too soon...



WHUNG

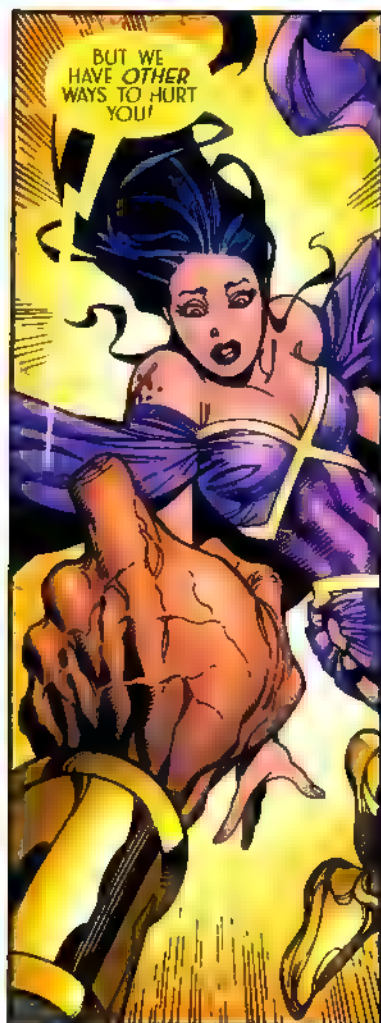


HAD ENOUGH?



JUST WARMING UP

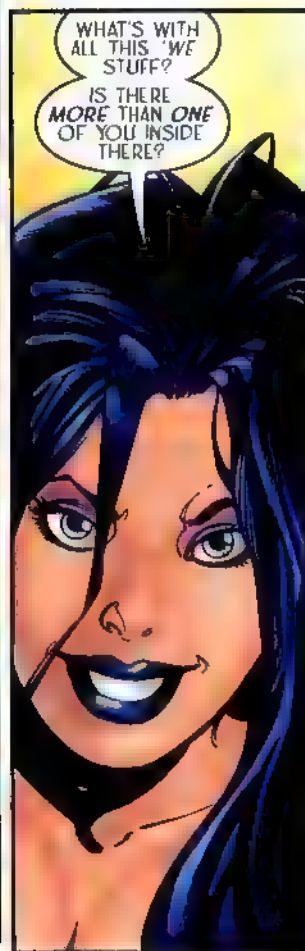




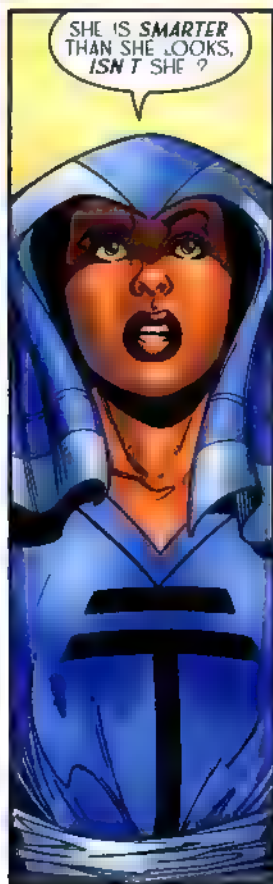


I HAVE
SEEN ENOUGH!
SHE WILL ONLY
MAKE THINGS
WORSE!

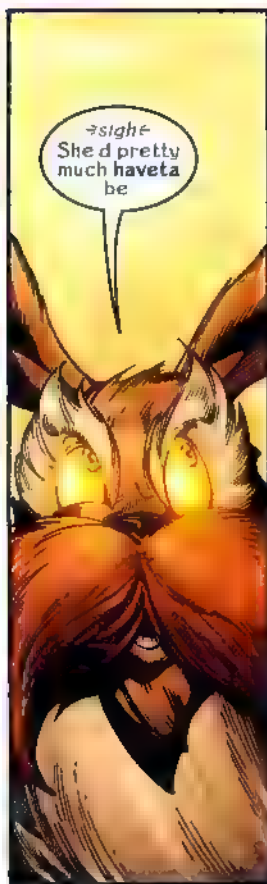
Maybe
maybe
not.



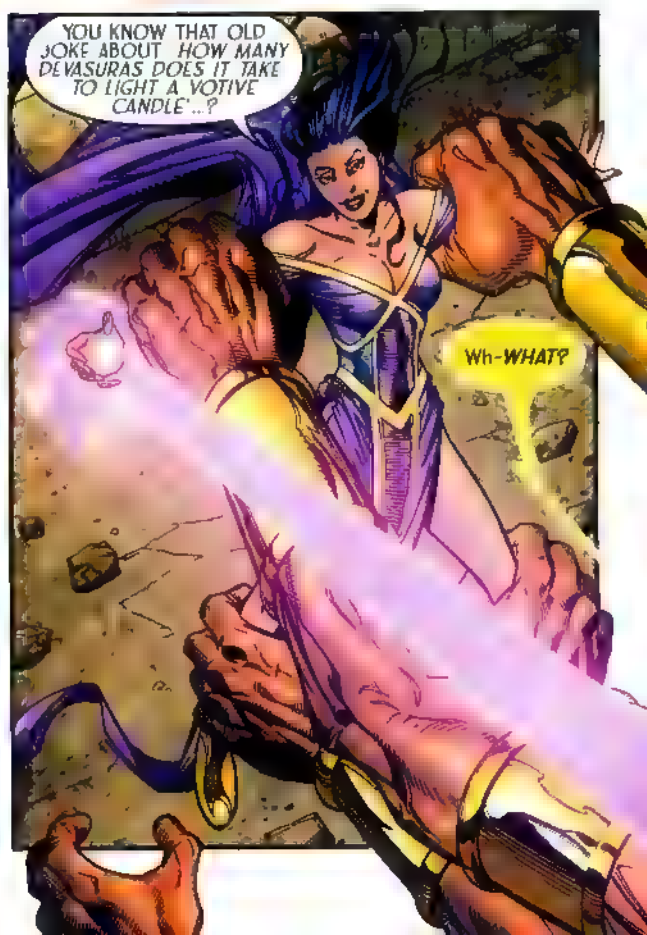
WHAT'S WITH
ALL THIS 'WE
STUFF?'
IS THERE
MORE THAN ONE
OF YOU INSIDE
THERE?



SHE IS **SMARTER**
THAN SHE LOOKS,
ISN'T SHE?



~sigh~
She'd pretty
much have to
be



YOU KNOW THAT OLD
JOKE ABOUT HOW MANY
DEVASURAS DOES IT TAKE
TO LIGHT A VOTIVE
CANDLE...?

Wh-WHAT?



G-G-G-G WH-WHAT-T
ARE Y YOU
D-DOING-G-G ?

PROBING
RATTING AROUND
LOOKING FOR
A--



♪ KAYVY

NOW
WHO IN THE
FOUR MOONS
ARE YOU
GUYS ?

THIS IS
WHY I DID
NOT WANT YOU
TO KILL THE
DEVASURA

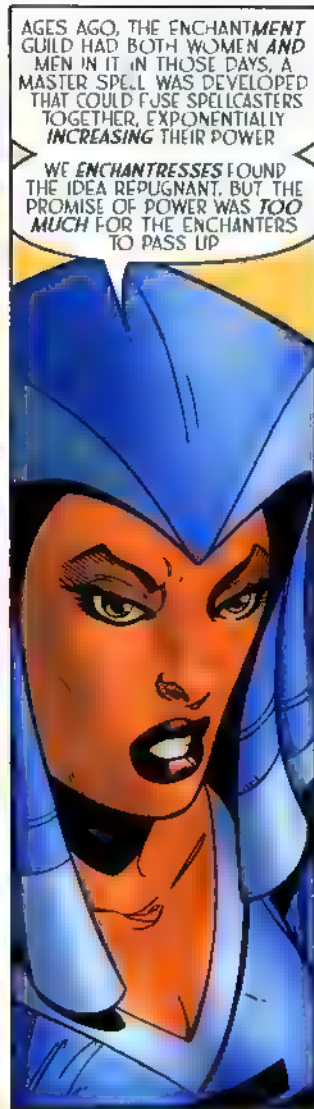


THE
DEVASURA
IS OUR
HUSBAND



THE
ENCHANTRESS
SPIRIT TELLS ME
YOU'RE MARRIED
TO THESE
GUYS ?

IN A
MANNER OF
SPEAKING



AGES AGO, THE ENCHANTMENT
GUILD HAD BOTH WOMEN AND
MEN IN IT. IN THOSE DAYS, A
MASTER SPELL WAS DEVELOPED
THAT COULD FUSE SPELLCASTERS
TOGETHER, EXPONENTIALLY
INCREASING THEIR POWER

WE ENCHANTRESSES FOUND
THE IDEA REPUGNANT, BUT THE
PROMISE OF POWER WAS TOO
MUCH FOR THE ENCHANTERS
TO PASS UP



THIS IS WHY YOU
WILL FIND NO MALE
PRACTITIONERS OF
THE MYSTIC ARTS
IN OUR LAND

FOR MOST OF THE
YEAR, THEY ALL
RESIDE WITHIN THEIR
COMMON BODY, THE
DEVASURA



AND THIS
THING THEY BECOME
JUST HANGS AROUND
YOUR LAND, ATTACKING
YOU WHENEVER THE
MOOD STRIKES?

YES, BUT IT
IS *NOT* A BAD
ARRANGEMENT IT
KEEPS *BOTH* SIDES
OF THE CONFLICT
SHARP AND
STRONG



ONE WEEK EACH YEAR,
THEY *SEPARATE* THEIR
UNION AND A TRUCE IS
CALLED, FOR WE MUST
PROCREATE IF WE
ARE TO SURVIVE

Glad
ya didn't gloss
over that little
detail



AND
THE *REST* OF
THE YEAR YOU
FIGHT

WELL, IT'S
NOT THE *FIRST*
MARRIAGE I'VE
HEARD OF THAT
WORKS THAT
WAY



I REGRET
THAT YOU
WERE CAUGHT UP
IN OUR PRIVATE
STRUGGLE

IS THERE
SOME WAY
THAT ANY OF
US CAN MAKE
AMENDS?

IT IS *SHE* WHO SHOULD APOLOGIZE TO *US*! GISELLE IS RESPONSIBLE FOR THE WHOLE SORRY CIRCUMSTANCE THAT **PROMPTED** YOUR ATTACK TODAY!

ALL YESTERDAY AND THROUGHOUT THE MORNING, THE MOTHERS AND DAUGHTERS OF MY LAND **PICKETED** OUTSIDE MY CATHEDRAL WALLS, DEMANDING MY **RESIGNATION!**

ALL BECAUSE THAT THIRCE-DAMNED **REPORTER** ANNOUNCED TO THE **WORLD** THAT YOU STOLE AWAY THE GUILD SPIRITS!

WHY WOULD YOU REVEAL SUCH A THING TO A **REPORTER**, OF ALL PEOPLE, WHEN WE **AGREED** TO KEEP IT A **SECRET**?

THAT'S JUST IT, MASTER YINMA--I **DIDN'T** TELL HIM A THING.

SOMEBODY **SET US UP**. I CAME TO FIND OUT IF IT WAS YOU.

YOU THINK I WOULD COURT SUCH A **DISASTER**?

NO. NOT REALLY.

BUT I HAD TO **RULE YOU OUT** BEFORE TAKING IT UP WITH THE **OTHER TWO** GUILD MASTERS I NEVER SAW EYE TO EYE WITH.

NOW IT'S TIME TO VISIT THE MOST **OBVIOUS** CANDIDATE FOR CAUSING OUR TROUBLES...

TREAD **CAREFULLY**, GISELLE VILLARD! THE **DARK MAGI** DO NOT WELCOME UNANNOUNCED VISITORS!

THANKS, MASTER YINMA, BUT IT'S NOT **ME** WHO SHOULD WORRY...



STORYTELLERS

**Tony
BEDARD**
WRITER

**Aaron
LOPRESTI**
PENCILER

**Matt
RYAN**
INKER

**Opil
QUINTANA**
COLORIST

**Troy
PETERI**
LETTERER



Mark Alessi
PUBLISHER & CEO

Cina M. Villa
CHIEF OPERATING OFFICER

Michael A. Beattie
CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER

Jennifer Hernandez
GENERAL COUNSEL

Jim Stikeleather
CHIEF TECHNICAL OFFICER

Tony Panaccio
VICE PRESIDENT
PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Chris Oarr
VICE PRESIDENT
SALES & MARKETING

Robert Boyd
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING

James Breitbeil
DIRECTOR OF
MARKETING & DISTRIBUTION

Ian M. Feller
DIRECTOR OF CORPORATE
COMMUNICATIONS

Courtland Whited
MIS DIRECTOR

Gabo Mendoza
INTERNET SERVICES DIRECTOR

Charles Decker
DIRECTOR OF
PRODUCTION CONTROL

Brian M. Soltis
CONTROLLER

Brandon Peterson
VICE PRESIDENT
SPECIAL PROJECTS

Barbara Kesel
HEAD WRITER

Bart Sears
ART DIRECTOR

Michelle Pugliese
FREELANCE COORDINATOR

Michael Atiyeh

Butch Gulice

Dave Lanphear

Rick Magyar

Laura Martin

Mark Pennington

Andy Smith

ASSISTANT
ART DIRECTORS

Pam Davies

VICE PRESIDENT
OF PRODUCTION

Sylvia Bretz
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
ADVERTISING/WEB

Janet Bechtel
PRODUCTION SUPERVISOR
BOOKS

Randy Martin

Erin Flanagan
PRODUCTION DESIGNER

Marisol Quintana

PRODUCTION ASSISTANT

The
CrossGen
Universe
created by
Mark Alessi &
Cina M. Villa

MYSTIC™



Issue #35
In Stores
April 9th

Tony Bedard
Paul Ryan
Pablo Marcos
Wil Quintana

DARK SIDE OF
THE MAGUS

CAN'T GET ENOUGH

CREATOR QUIZ

There must be at least one question that you've been dying to ask someone at CGE. If you want to see that question answered here, head on over to the Creator Quiz forum located at the CG Entertainment message boards (www.cgforums.com) and leave your question. As space allows, we'll post as many of those questions and answers as possible.

Asked by Chevymetal: Who created the character, Brath Mac Garen?

Chuck Dixon: "If memory serves, the Celtic bad boy was a joint creation of Barbara Kesel and Mark Waid for his first appearances in SIGIL. But I got to name him."

Asked by Meteora: Is Emma Bishop the lead character in RUSE?

Scott Beatty: "Emma is Simon Archard's partner, after all, and I like to think of the two as co-lead characters in RUSE...not unlike John Steed and Emma Peel in *The Avengers*. You can't have one without the other, and our ongoing plans for the book find their fates intertwined. But you could be right in assuming that Emma drives the bus. Her interior monologue is the filter through which we process the world of RUSE. And her relationship with Simon is ultimately the force that propels everything."

ON THE LAM

By Ian M. Feller

Well, **BRIAN PULIDO'S LADY DEATH: A MEDIEVAL TALE** is out and it seems to be a hit! Debuting at No. 69 on Diamond's Top 100 chart, it was the highest placing CGE title for the month of February. This is incredible news. It is wonderful to see that all the diehard fans of Brian's work have come out to support him in this new project. Now be sure you continue the support by picking up this month's issue #2. After all, the story in issue #1 was so good, how can you resist?

A star is born. Our very own Cubby, the Crossovers family pet, from **THE CROSSOVERS** is becoming a star in his own right. The fan response to the cute little dachshund has been overwhelming. Fans have already begun to speculate that there's more to the little guy than meets the eye. Robert Rodi's been pretty tight-lipped about the whole thing. All he would say is, "Cubby's secret, if he has one, will be revealed before the end of the first story arc." Catch more of Cubby's adventures this month in **THE CROSSOVERS** #3 and stay tuned for the rest of the first arc and see what Robert has up his sleeve.

CROSSCURRENTS

By Gina M. Villa

So, do ya get the title for these pages? **Can't Get Enough/CGE**. ...clever, huh? Thanks to **Tony Bedard** and his fertile imagination for coming up with it on the spur of the moment when my and Ian's initial choice proved to have already been in use.

To finish off getting you up to speed on new faces in the studio, **Dale Eaglesham** will be assuming the penciling chores on **SIGIL**. Dale's last gig was at DC, where his crisp, flowing, detailed pencils graced the pages of *Green Lantern* for almost two years. He joins writer **Chuck Dixon** and the two **Andrews (Hennessy on inks and Crossley on colors)** beginning with issue #36. It will be a reunion of sorts for Eaglesham and Hennessy, since they worked together before on both *JLA 80-page Giant* #3 and *Batgirl* #12 — which Chuck wrote. Dale is recently married and he and his wife Louise have relocated from Canada.

Sadly, this also means we'll be saying goodbye to **Scot Eaton** after two years of working together. He and his wife are returning to their home state of Vermont, where Scot will be pursuing new freelance opportunities. Month in and month out Scot turned in the highest quality work — nothing any of the writers threw at him every proved to be more than he could handle — and made it look easy. Scot was a great asset to CrossGen. We'll miss him, and we wish him the best on all his future projects.

This month marks the debut of **SOLUS**, and I'm really excited about it. The art by **George Pérez**,

Rick Magyar, and **Larry Molinar** is peerless, and **Barbara Kesel** is doing a tremendous job weaving a compelling and action-packed storyline for the book. As the main characters, Andra and Lindy, travel to the far corners of the CGU looking for their own answers, their adventures will touch upon some of the mysteries that have been building in our universe since it's inception, and continue the trend we've already established of 2003 being a big year for reveals throughout our line. For those of you who read many of our titles and are deeply involved in our über-story, this year should tie together a lot of the threads. And, if you're one of the people who follow our less continuity-driven books, none of this will interfere with your enjoyment of them. Talk about having the best of both worlds!

In just-breaking news, starting in May, you can look forward to seeing a CrossGen comic stitched into the center of each issue of *Cinescape Magazine*! *Cinescape Magazine* is a leading genre entertainment magazine published by Mania Entertainment. The first comic will be a special edition of **WAY OF THE RAT** #1 and — as will all of them — be in our Traveler trim size, 32 pages long with at least 22 pages of story. This will be a great opportunity to get our comics in front of an audience that already enjoys horror, science fiction, fantasy, etc. in another medium and represents still another innovative effort for CrossGen's marketing and product development folks. Great job, you guys!

R.A. SALVATORE'S DEMONWARS: TRIAL BY FIRE is coming near the end with the release of issue #4 this month. But fear not Salvatore fans, the next explosive story arc, **R.A. SALVATORE'S DEMONWARS: EYE FOR AN EYE**, will follow immediately after in May. Featuring art by up-n-comer Greg Tocchini (**THE FIRST** #27, **MERIDIAN** #32, **ROUTE 666** #10), this new story arc takes our hero Andacanavar to an *Arabian Nights* meets *Crouching Tiger, Hidden Dragon*-type place filled with assassins, soldiers, spies, mystics, harem girls, and mysterious warriors. The look of this arc is completely different from what you see in the current issues, but the action intensifies as writer Scott Ciencin turns it up to eleven.

Well that's all the time I have for this month.

I see the flashing lights heading my way.

I'm outta here! Until next month...



READ THIS!

Recommended Good Read
by Chuck Dixon

This month, CrossGen Senior Writer Chuck Dixon submits for your perusal what he considers a great web comic site: **www.supernaturalcrime.com**

Creative Talent: various

A great collection of mystery strips in the old pulp vein. A new episode of each appears every week. My favorites are brand-new adventures of *Mike Mauser* by Nick Cuti and Joe Staton. Also by my pal Joe and writer Christopher Mills is *Femme Noir* about a hardhittin', tough talkin' dame who's nobody's sweetheart. If you like your thrills hardboiled and your action neat then check this one out.



ROLAND PARIS

- 1. What do you do for CGE?**
I ink CRUX.
- 2. Tell us about the project.**
A bunch of Atlanteans are awakened by a mysterious stranger and try to figure out what happened to the rest of their race.
- 3. Favorite comics you read?**
Powers, *Strangers in Paradise*, *Liberty Meadows*.
- 4. Favorite ice cream flavor?**
Baskin Robbins Baseball Nut... yeah, it's a real flavor. vanilla, raspberry swirl and cashews!
- 5. What type of car do you drive?**
Ford Explorer... gas-guzzler, I know, but my Saturn finally died, so I had to get something new.
- 6. ESPN or CNN?**
Fox News channel.
- 7. Hobbies?**
Playing guitar and collecting chimp and gorilla related items.
- 8. Last good book you read?**
"Everything You Know Is Wrong... The History Of Human Evolution" by Lloyd Pye.
- 10. Favorite movie?**
Monty Python and the Holy Grail, *Blade Runner* (Director's cut)
- 11. Influences on your work?**
Frank Frazetta, Alphonse Mucha, John Dell, Adam Hughes, Mark Farmer.
- 10. Where are you originally from?**
New Orleans, LA, home of Mardi Gras, Po-Boys and drive thru Daiquiri stores!
- 11. Music you listen to while you work?**
Rock and heavy metal mostly. Hard aggressive stuff to keep the brush moving.

